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Howard Langfitt Farm Families of the Week

6-7-1957

Switzer, R. Purvis Script

Howard Langfitt

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W L B T

[Switzer, R. Purvis]

CONTINUITY

FOR Farm Family of the Week

DATE Fri. June 7, 1957

BY _____

TIME 12:25-1:00 p.m.

VIDEO

AUDIO

CAMERA ON LANGFITT

SLIDE FARM-1
MAIL BOX

SLIDE FARM-2
HOUSE

I WANT TO SAY IN THE VERY BEGINNING THAT I AM DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO HUMPHRIES COUNTY AGENT, ELMO HILL, FOR HIS VERY WONDERFUL HELP IN SELECTING THE FAMILY WHICH WE SALUTE TODAY AND FOR GOING WITH ME TO THEIR FARM TO OBTAIN THE STORY WHICH I AM ABOUT TO TELL. THIS IS THE STORY OF MR. AND MRS. R. PURVIS SWITZER AND SON, BARRY WHO LIVE IN THE FOUR MILE LAKE COMMUNITY OF HUMPHRIES COUNTY. PURVIS SWITZER GREW UP ON AN ADJOINING FARM WHERE HIS FATHER AND MOTHER STILL LIVE. MRS. PURVIS SWITZER GREW UP IN BELZONI. SHE AND PURVIS WENT TO SCHOOL TOGETHER A YEAR AFTER HE GRADUATED FROM BELZONI HIGH SCHOOL PURVIS SWITZER WENT TO THE NAVY WHERE HE SERVED HIS COUNTRY FROM 1943 TO 1946. WHILE PURVIS WAS IN THE NAVY HIS BRIDE TO BE WENT TO SCHOOL AT BELHAVEN A YEAR AND THEN WORKED IN BELZONI. PURVIS SWITZER CAME OUT OF THE NAVY ON MAY 10, 1946 AND THEY WERE MARRIED ON MAY 26 THEY MOVED TO THIS LOVELY LITTLE HOME IN 1954 PURVIS SWITZER AND HIS BRIDE LIVED WITH PURVIS'S MOTHER AND FATHER FOR ONE MONTH. PURVIS FARMED WITH HIS FATHER UNTIL HE WAS MARRIED. THEN FOR ONE YEAR HE RENTED 17 ACRES OF COTTON AND THE

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FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-3
OLD HOUSE

SLIDE FARM-4
TWO MEN

SECOND YEAR HE AND HIS FATHER RENTED 140 ACRES OF LAND TOGETHER, AND IN THE FALL OF 1947 PURVIS BOUGHT 120 ACRES OF HIS PRESENT 185 ACRE FARM. THERE IS A STORY OF HARDSHIP AND NEAR TRAGEDY IN THE YEARS FROM 1949 TO 1950 AND IT SHOWS THE COURAGE AND DETERMINATION OF THIS YOUNG FARMER AND BELONGS IN OUR STORY, BUT FIRST LET ME GO BACK A LITTLE. AFTER PURVIS SWITZER AND HIS BRIDE LIVED WITH PURVIS'S MOTHER AND FATHER FOR A MONTH THEY MOVED TO SWIFTOWN WHILE THEY WERE BUILDING THEIR FIRST HOME. THEY TOOK AN OLD RUN-DOWN TENNANT HOUSE ON THE SWITZER FARM AND PUT NEW FLOORS, SIDING, A ROOF AND PORCH ON IT SO IT WAS FIT TO LIVE IN. THEY LIVED IN THIS HOUSE FOR 6 YEARS UNTIL THEY BUILT THEIR NEW HOME IN 1954. IT WAS IN THIS SPAN OF YEARS THAT PURVIS SWITZER AND HIS FATHER DID MUCH OF THEIR FARMING TOGETHER. WHILE THEY BOTH HAVE THEIR OWN LAND, THEY STILL WORK VERY CLOSELY TOGETHER AND HANDLE SOME CROPS TOGETHER. HE AND HIS FATHER RAISED COTTON CORN AND OATS. ON HIS OWN OPERATION PURVIS SWITZER BEGAN TO BUILD A HERD OF REGISTERED DUROC HOGS, AS WELL AS RAISE COTTON, CORN, OATS, AND SOYBEANS. IN 1948, JUST AS PURVIS SWITZER

W L B T

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FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO AUDIO

WAS GETTING HIS REGISTERED DUROC HOG BUSINESS GOING GOOD HE WAS STRUCK BLIND BY A PITUITARY TUMOR AND HAD TO HAVE AN OPERATION FOR ITS REMOVAL. HE HAD ANOTHER OCCURANCE OF IT IN 1950 WHICH REQUIRED ANOTHER OPERATION. DURING THESE YEARS OF HARDSHIP WHILE TRYING TO RECOVER FROM THIS ILLNESS AND CARRY ON HIS FARM PROGRAM AT THE SAME TIME, HIS REGISTERED HOG PROGRAM GOT ALL MESSED UP WITH POOR BREEDING THAT BROKE INTO HIS PASTURES SO HE SOLD OUT IN 1949 AND DIDN'T GET BACK INTO THE HOG BUSINESS UNTIL 1954. I'LL TELL YOU ABOUT HIS PRESENT HOG PROGRAM A LITTLE LATER IN THE STORY. PURVIS SWITZER HAS ALWAYS RAISED SOME COTTON. THIS YEAR HE HAS A 25 ACRE COTTON ALLOTMENT AND HAS PUT 15 OF IT IN THE SOIL BANK. HIS COTTON CROP OVER THE YEARS HAS AVERAGED ABOUT A BALE AND A HALF TO THE ACRE. SOME YEARS HE HAS MADE AS HIGH AS THREE BALES. HE TESTS HIS SOIL AND FERTILIZES MORE THAN HE NEEDS. HE PUTS A 100 POUNDS OR MORE OF NITROGEN PER ACRE ON HIS CORN AND COTTON. PURVIS SWITZER KEEPS A CLOSE INFESTATION COUNT ON HIS COTTON AND POISONS REGULARLY FOR INSECT CONTROL. HERE IS A GRAPHIC EXAMPLE OF THE GOOD HE IS DOING

SLIDE FARM-5
COTTON

SLIDE FARM 6
COTTON CLOSEUP

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

WITH EARLY SEASON COTTON INSECT CONTROL. YOU CAN SEE THAT THE EARLY, OLDER LEAVES ARE BADLY DAMAGED BY THRIPS....BUT YOU CAN ALSO SEE THAT THE NEW TERMINAL LEAF HAS NO DAMAGE AND THE REASON IS EFFECTIVE CONTROL OF THRIPS WHICH HAS ALMOST COMPLETELY ELIMINATED THEM. PURVIS CONTROLLED HIS THRIPS AND CUTWORMS WITH TOXAPHEN HE HAS POISONED TWICE AND PUT OUT 7 GALLONS ON 25 ACRES. PURVIS SAYS HE DIDN'T INTEND TO USE THAT MUCH BUT LEFT THE WRONG NOZZLE ON HIS SPRAYER AND NOW HE FEELS IT IS THE BEST THING HE EVER DID. PURVIS SWITZER PRE-EMERGES ALL HIS COTTON TO CONTROL GRASS. HE ALSO HAS 15 ACRES IN CORN . HE PICKS PART OF IT FOR THE HOGS AND CUTS THE REST FOR SILAGE. HE ALSO HAS 20 ACRES OF SORGHUM WITH HIS FATHER WHICH IS CUT FOR SILAGE. HE AND HIS FATHER FILL A SILO TOGETHER AND BOTH USE FROM IT. THEY ALSO TAKE THEIR POOREST BEANS AND PUT THEM IN THE SILO. PURVIS SWITZER PLANTS 25 ACRES TO SOYBEANS, ALL OF WHICH HE MARKETS, EITHER FROM THE COMBINE OR FROM STORAGE. HE HAS ADEQUATE STORAGE FACILITIES TO BE ABLE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE BEST MARKET. HE PLANTS THE LEE VARIETY AND ~~GREEN~~ GETS A GOOD

SLIDE FARM-7
CORN FIELD

SLIDE FARM-8
BEANS

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR

DATE

BY

TIME

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-9

CATTLE

YIELD PER ACRE. PURVIS SWITZER FIRST STARTED IN THE CATTLE BUSINESS RIGHT AFTER HE MARRIED IN 1946. HE STARTED WITH SOME GRADE STOCK HE PICKED UP HERE AND THERE. BY 1954 HE HAD 50 COWS AND CALVES AND DECIDED TO SELL OUT TO GET OUT OF A QUALITY OF ANIMAL THAT WASN'T BRINGING HIM THE BEST RETURNS. HE WANTED TO GET A HERD OF REGISTERED CATTLE. HE SAVED THE MONEY HE GOT FROM THE COWS TO BUY A MECHANICAL COTTON PICKER AND THEN IN DECEMBER OF 1956, HE BOUGHT TEN REGISTERED POLLED HERFORD COWS AND A REGISTERED NINE FINE HEIFER CALVES WHICH HE IS SAVING FOR HERD REPLACEMENT AND GROWTH. PURVIS HOPES TO EVENTUALLY HAVE 50 REGISTERED BROOD COWS. WHETHER HE SELLS HIS CATTLE FOR BREEDING OR FOR MARKET HE FIGURES IT IS A WISE INVESTMENT FOR HE NOW HAS BREEDING THAT WILL COMMAND A TOP PRICE ON THE COMMERCIAL MARKET BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE QUALITY AND ABILITY TO PUT ON THE DESIRED GAIN. IF HE CAN SELL HIS BULL CALVES TO REGISTERED BREEDERS, OKAY... HE FIGURES THEY WOULD BE BUYING GOOD STOCK... IF NOT HE'LL MARKET THEM AND STILL NOT LOSE. AS I SAID,

SLIDE FARM-10

COWS

REGISTERED POLLED HERFORD COWS AND A REGISTERED POLLED BULL. TODAY FROM THOSE TEN COWS HE HAS NINE FINE HEIFER CALVES WHICH HE IS SAVING FOR HERD REPLACEMENT AND GROWTH. PURVIS HOPES TO EVENTUALLY HAVE 50 REGISTERED BROOD COWS. WHETHER HE SELLS HIS CATTLE FOR BREEDING OR FOR MARKET HE FIGURES IT IS A WISE INVESTMENT FOR HE NOW HAS BREEDING THAT WILL COMMAND A TOP PRICE ON THE COMMERCIAL MARKET BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE QUALITY AND ABILITY TO PUT ON THE DESIRED GAIN. IF HE CAN SELL HIS BULL CALVES TO REGISTERED BREEDERS, OKAY... HE FIGURES THEY WOULD BE BUYING GOOD STOCK... IF NOT HE'LL MARKET THEM AND STILL NOT LOSE. AS I SAID,

SLIDE FARM-11

BULL

REGISTERED POLLED HERFORD COWS AND A REGISTERED POLLED BULL. TODAY FROM THOSE TEN COWS HE HAS NINE FINE HEIFER CALVES WHICH HE IS SAVING FOR HERD REPLACEMENT AND GROWTH. PURVIS HOPES TO EVENTUALLY HAVE 50 REGISTERED BROOD COWS. WHETHER HE SELLS HIS CATTLE FOR BREEDING OR FOR MARKET HE FIGURES IT IS A WISE INVESTMENT FOR HE NOW HAS BREEDING THAT WILL COMMAND A TOP PRICE ON THE COMMERCIAL MARKET BECAUSE THEY HAVE THE QUALITY AND ABILITY TO PUT ON THE DESIRED GAIN. IF HE CAN SELL HIS BULL CALVES TO REGISTERED BREEDERS, OKAY... HE FIGURES THEY WOULD BE BUYING GOOD STOCK... IF NOT HE'LL MARKET THEM AND STILL NOT LOSE. AS I SAID,

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-12
HOGS

PURVIS SWITZER GOT BACK INTO THE REGISTERED DUROC HOG BUSINESS IN 1954. TODAY HE HAS TWELVE REGISTERED SOWS WHICH HE BREEDS TWICE A YEAR.

SLIDE FARM-13
BOAR

THEIR LITTERS AVERAGE ABOUT 8 PIGS. SOME SOWS SOMETIMES RAISE AS MANY AS 12, 13 AND 15 PIGS TO THE LITTER. ALL SOWS ARE BRED TO A REGISTERED DUROC BOAR. MOST OF THE PIGS ARE SOLD TO 4-H

SLIDE FARM 14
FARROWING PENS

CLUB AND FFA BOYS FOR CLUB PROJECTS. ALL SURPLUS ARE SOLD AS FEEDER PIGS. ALL HOGS ARE FED CORN AND OATS AND A SUPPLEMENT AND GET GRAZING ALL THE TIME. PURVIS USES FOUR FARROWING CRATES

IN HIS BREEDING PROGRAM WITH A HEAT LAMP IN EACH CRATE. HE FIGURES THIS COMBINATION INCREASES THE PROFITS OF HIS HOG PROGRAM BY CUTTING DOWN ON BABY PIG LOSSES. THE PIGS ARE WEANED AT 8

SLIDE FARM-15
BACKRUB

WEEKS AND THE SOW AND HER PIGS ARE PUT OUT ON RANGE AT TWO WEEKS OF AGE. ALL PASTURE AREA IS FENCED AND CROSS FENCED HOG TIGHT. PURVIS

SWITZER USES BACK RUBS FOR BOTH HIS HOGS AND HIS CATTLE AND FIND THEM VERY EFFECTIVE IN FOR PARASITE CONTROL. GRAZING FOR THE HOGS IS CLOVER NOW AND PEARL RILLET FOR SUMMER GRAZING.

ALL PIGS ARE CREEP FED AND ALL HOGS AND CATTLE ARE KEPT SEPERATE. PURVIS HOPES TO EVENTUALLY

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-16
PASTURE

SLIDE FARM-17
OATS

SLIDE FARM-18
COMBINE

SLIDE FARM-19
MACHINERY

HAVE 25 BROOD SOWS...JUST ABOUT DOUBLE WHAT HE NOW HAS. GRAZING FOR CATTLE CONSISTS OF BERMUDA GRASS, VETCH, FESCUE, WHITE DUTCH CLOVER, WILD WINTER PEAS AND DALLIS GRASS FOR PERMANENT PASTURE. HE HAS 65 ACRES IN PERMANENT GRAZING WHICH IS IMPROVED AND REGULARLY NITRATED AND CLIP CLIPPED FOR WEED CONTROL. TEMPORARY ~~XXXX~~ FALL AND SPRING GRAZING IS SUPPLIED BY 25 ACRES OF OATS. THE CATTLE ARE TAKEN OFF IN MARCH AND TEN ACRES OF THE OATS IS PLOWED UNDER TO BE PUT IN COTTON. THE OTHER 15 ACRES AND ANOTHER 15 THAT IS NOT GRAZED AT ALL ARE CARRIED ON TO BE COMBINED FOR GRAIN. PURVIS AND HIS FATHER HAVE A 120 TON ABOVE GROUND SILO WHICH THEY FILL WITH A COMBINATION OF CORN, SORGHUM AND SOYBEANS. THE COWS REALLY LIKE IT WITH SOME MEAL SPREAD ON IT AND PURVIS AND HIS FATHER INTEND TO FOLLOW THE SAME PROGRAM THIS YEAR. PURVIS AND HIS FATHER BOUGHT THIS COMBINE TOGETHER AND BESIDES HANDLING THEIR OWN GRAIN THEY DO SOME CUSTOM COMBINING. THEY ARE COMPLETELY MECHANIZED. PURVIS OWNS TWO BUTANE OPERATED TRACTORS AND ALL NECESSARY CULTIVATING EQUIPMENT. BESIDES HANDLING HIS OWN COTTON MECHANICALLY HE DOES SOME CUSTOM COTTON

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM-20
MACHINE SHED

PICKING FOR FOLKS IN THE COMMUNITY. PURVIS HAS BUILT A MACHINE SHED TO PROTECT HIS VALUABLE MACHINERY AND IN ADDITION TO HIS OTHER GRAIN STORAGE HAS SOME STORAGE SPACE IN ONE END OF THE MACHINE SHED. HE BUILT THE SHED IN 1953. WATER FOR ALL THE LIVESTOCK IS SUPPLIED FROM A SHALLOW WELL AND IS PUMPED TO THE PLACES NEEDED AND IS ALWAYS AVAILABLE TO CATTLE AND HOGS THROUGH USE OF AUTOMATIC WATERERS. FOOD FOR THE FAMILY IS EQUALLY IMPORTANT TO THE LIVESTOCK AND GRAIN PROGRAM. MRS. SWITZER HAS ABOUT TWO ACRES IN GARDEN, COUNTING A PEA PATCH WHICH EVERYONE IN THE COMMUNITY USES. SHE TRIES TO HAVE SOME VEGETABLES IN HER GARDEN THE YEAR AROUND. THEIR PRESENT ORCHARD CONSISTS OF THREE PEACH TREES AND THEY PLAN TO PUT OUT MORE ORCHARD THIS FALL. FROM HER GARDEN AND ORCHARD AND FROM THE FAMILY MEAT SUPPLY MRS. SWITZER FREEZES ABOUT 2,000 POUNDS OF FOOD EACH YEAR. SHE TRIES TO FREEZE ALL THE FOOD SHE CAN GET A HOLD OF. IN ADDITION MRS. SWITZER CANS ABOUT 150 QUARTS OF PICKLES, JELLIES, JAMS, BEANS, BEETS, GREEN TOMATOES AND SO FORTH. MRS. PURVIS SWITZER HAS A COMPLETELY MODERN HOME INCLUDING ELECTRIC DISH WASHER.

SLIDE FARM-21
GARDEN

SLIDE FARM-22
FREEZER

SLIDE FARM-23
KITCHEN

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

BY _____

TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

SLIDE FARM 24
BARBECUE

CAMERA ON THE FAMILY

MRS. SWITZER HAS ALWAYS HAD ELECTRICITY, HOWEVER, IN THE OLD TENNANT HOUSE WHICH THEY LIVED IN FOR SIX YEARS SHE DID NOT HAVE HOT WATER OR A BATH ROOM. SHE HAD RUNNING WATER BUT NOT THOSE OTHER NECESSITIES. TODAY HER HOME HAS EVERYTHING ANY HOMEMAKER COULD WANT. MR. AND MRS. SWITZER AND 14 MONTH OLD BARRY LOVE TO COOK OUT IN THEIR VERY BEAUTIFUL BACK YARD. MOST ANY BEAUTIFUL DAY WILL FIND THEM OUT THERE BARBECUING, AND THEY TAKE GREAT PRIDE IN SHOWING IT OFF TO COUNTY AGENT ELMO HILL. BY THE WAY, TAKE A GOOD LOOK AT BARRY. HE'S A REAL LITTLE DOLL. I THINK BARRY IS MORE LOVED AND WANTED THAN MOST CHILDREN. MR. AND MRS. PURVIS SWITZER ARE UNABLE TO HAVE ANY CHILDREN OF THEIR OWN AND BECAUSE OF THEIR GREAT LOVE FOR CHILDREN THEY ADOPTED BARRY WHEN HE WAS FOUR DAYS OLD. HE HAS BEEN A BLESSING TO MR. AND MRS. PURVIS SWITZER AND THEY ARE A REAL BLESSING TO HIM. MR. AND MRS. PURVIS SWITZER BELONG TO THE SWIFTOWN METHODIST CHURCH ABOUT TWO MILES AWAY FROM THEIR HOME. PURVIS IS A STEWARD IN HIS CHURCH AND ASSISTANT CUNDAY SCHOOL SUPERINTENDEN MRS. SWITZER IS ASSISTANT TEACHER IN THE

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VIDEO

AUDIO

INTERMEDIATE SUNDAY SCHOOL DEPARTMENT. SHE WAS SECRETARY-TREASURER OF THE CHURCH AND SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR EIGHT YEARS, BUT GAVE IT UP TO DEVOTE HER FULL TIME TO SON BARRY WHEN HE ARRIVED. SHE IS A PAST PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY-TREASURER OF THE W.S.C.S. OF HER CHURCH. PURVIS SWITZER IS A DIRECTOR OF THE HUMPHRIES COUNTY FARM BUREAU AND A DIRECTOR OF THE COUNTY FAIR BOARD. HE IS ALSO A 4-H CLUB LEADER AND MEMBER OF THE COUNTY 4-H CLUB ADVISORY COUNCIL. AS A BOY HE BELONGED TO THE 4-H CLUB FOR 8 YEARS. PURVIS SWITZER TELLS ME THAT HE DEPENDS VERY MUCH ON COUNTY AGENT ELMO HILL AND MR. E.L. KIRK, THE VOCATIONAL AGRICULTURE TEACHER AT BELZONI HIGH SCHOOL AND THAT THEY HAVE HELPED TO MAKE HIS FARM PROGRAM MORE SUCCESSFUL THAN IT MIGHT OTHERWISE HAVE BEEN. THEIR HOME IS COMPLETELY AIR CONDITIONED AND THEY HAVE MANY PLANS FOR THE FUTURE, BUT I THINK I'LL LEAVE THAT FOR THEM TO TELL. THERE IS ONE OTHER THING I'D LIKE TO SAY ABOUT THIS FINE FAMILY. WHEN I ASKED IN THE COMMUNITY ABOUT OUTSTANDING YOUNG FARMERS, FOLKS TOLD ME THEIR BEST WERE MR. AND MRS. WESLEY HESTER, MR. AND MRS. MARK SIMMONS, MR. AND

W L B T

CONTINUITY

FOR _____

DATE _____

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TIME _____

VIDEO

AUDIO

MRS. WAYNE KING AND MR. AND MRS. PURVIS SWITZER.
THERE ARE PROBABLY OTHERS BUT THOSE NAMES CAME
IMMEDIATELY TO THEIR MIND. WE HAVE ALREADY
SALUTES TWO OF THOSE FOUR FAMILIES,...THIS IS
THE THIRD AND ONE DAY WE'LL DO THE OTHER. NOW,
I WANT YOU TO MEET MR. AND MRS. PURVIS SWITZER
AND BARRY....A TRULY OUTSTANDING FARM FAMILY OF
THE FOUR MILE LAKE COMMUNITY OF HUMPHRIES COUNTY